



# Chesapeake Bay Program

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## CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DIRECTIVE NO. 93-3

# SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION RESTORATION GOALS

Submerged aquatic vegetation is an important indicator of Bay health. SAV beds provide shelter and nursery areas for many species of fish and wildlife and are important as a food source to many species of ducks, geese and swans. We are now able to demonstrate a link between water quality conditions and the survival and health of critically important submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) as stated in the 1992 Amendments to the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. IN 1989, we committed in the "Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Policy for Chesapeake Bay and Tidal Tributaries to achieve a net gain in submerged aquatic vegetation distribution, abundance and species diversity in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries over present populations?" We further agree to set regional submerged aquatic vegetation restoration goals in terms of acreage, abundance and species diversity considering historical distribution records and estimates of potential habitat." THEREFORE TO FURTHER OUR COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT, WE THE UNDERSIGNED:

€Agree to work to restore SAV to their historical levels.

€Further agree to an interim SAV restoration goal of 114,000 acres Baywide as documented through regional and baywide aerial surveys from 1971 through 1990. At the current rate of recovery this acreage will be achieved by 2005.

€Direct that a further target level be developed for the restoration of SAV to all shallow water areas delineated as existing or potential SAV habitat down to the 1 meter depth contour.

By this DIRECTIVE, we affirm our commitments made in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement to restore and protect the ecological integrity, productivity and beneficial uses of the Chesapeake Bay. In recognition of our commitments, we the undersigned agree to further our efforts through this directive which is hereby incorporated into the overall Chesapeake Bay Program. DATE: December 27, 1993 SIGNERS: For the Commonwealth of Virginia *Lawrence Douglas Wilder, Governor* For the State of Maryland *William Donald Shaefer, Governor* For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania *Robert P. Casey, Governor* For the District of Columbia *Sharon Pratt Kelly, Mayor* For the United States of America *Carol M. Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* For the Chesapeake Bay Commission *Jeffrey W. Coy, Chairman*

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For more information, contact the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 110,

Annapolis, MD 21403, Tel: (800) YOUR-BAY, Fax: (410) 267-5777.



*Last modified 1 March 1996*